COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

FOR

STRAFFORD COUNTY.

DOVER, N. H.:
LIBBEY & CO., PRINTERS,—ENQUIRER OFFICE,
1871.

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1871

Commissioners' Report.

The Commissioners for the County of Strafford submit the following Report of the financial affairs of the County so far as they relate to the support of County paupers, and other matters which come under their supervision. The Farm has produced the past year the following amount of crops:

Hay	100 tons
Straw	10 "
Corn Fodder	8 "
Peas	12 bushels
Beans	23 "
Cucumbers	20 "
Barley	130 "
Rye	28 "
Green Corn	10 "
Potatoes	900 "
Corn	500 "
Onions	10 "
Beets	40 "
Tomatoes	8 "
Turnips	30 "
Carrots	20 "
Apples	350 "
Parsnips	25 "
Squashes	1500 lbs.
Cabbages	1200 heads
Pork	8227 lbs.
Beef	2419 "
Butter	1800 "

Cheese	100 "
Poultry	200 "
Eggs	100 doz.

Inventory of Property at County Farm, March 1st, 1871.

NEAT STOCK.

6 Oxen	640 00
17 Cows	900 00
1 2-years old Bull	75 00
2 1-year old Bulls	50 00
2 1-year old Heifers	30 00
3 Horses	800 00
13 Sheep	78 00
1 Calf	12 00
28 Hens and Turkeys	24 75
32 Hogs	815 00
Total,	$3424 75
Am't of Hay and Grain	898 00
" Manure	775 00
" Farming Tools	812 50
" Carts, Sleds Wagons and Harnesses	795 00
" Lumber	154 00
" Wood and Coal	345 00
" Furniture	1020 00
" Bedsteads, Beds & Bedding	2165 25
" Crockery Ware	240 00
" Stoves and Boilers	275 00
" Cloth and Clothing	175 00
" Medicines	50 00
" Provisions and Groceries	834 64
	$11964 14

Cost of Farm Buildings and Improvements, March 1, 1871,		42,050 71
Personal property per inventory,		11,964 14
Total amount of real and personal property,		$54,014 85
Amount paid for Provisions, Clothing, Salaries, Labor, &c., including all the running expenses of the County Farm and Alms House, for the year ending March 1, 1871,		11,115 01
Interest on Real Estate,		1,890 00
Cash drawn from Treasury for stock at Farm,		740 00
Taxes paid City of Dover,		303 66
		$14,048 67
Stock sold and paid over to Treasurer,	536 00	
Received for board of towns' poor at County Farm and paid over to Treasurer,	2029 69	
Gain in am't of personal property,	85 80	
		$2645 49
Actual cost supporting paupers at County Farm during past year,		$11,403 18
Total number weeks' support furnished paupers at County Farm during past year,		7033
Average cost per week,		$1 62

Paid for support of County paupers located in the several towns in the County for the year ending March 1, 1871:

Barrington	244 42
Durham	42 60
Dover	1754 66
Farmington	409 89
Madbury	246 71
Middleton	164 00
New Durham	248 30
Rochester	317 73
Rollinsford	566 94
Somersworth	1141 11
Strafford	533 00
	$5669 36
Paid N H. Asylum for insane in Concord,	1095 97
Paid Reform School at Manchester,	164 54
Total pauper expense off Farm,	$6929 87
" " " on "	11403 18
Total pauper expense past year,	$18,333 05

No. of paupers at County Farm March 1, 1870,	142
" " admitted during the year.	110
" " discharged,	105
" " deceased,	11
" " born,	5
" " at County Farm March 1, 1871,	147
Average number during the year,	135 1-8

Whole " " " 252
Children provided with homes during the year, 13

Of the 110 admitted during the year, there were from—

Dover	52
Somersworth	30
Barrington	7
Rochester	6
Durham	2
New Durham	2
Madbury	2
Farmington	1
Lee	1
Strafford	1
Rollinsford	1
Born at the Almshouse	5
	110

Of those admitted during the past year, 63 were of American birth; 40 of Irish birth; 4 of French birth; and 3 colored.

Those admitted have been of the following ages:

Under 5 years	17
5 to 19	15
10 to 20	5
20 to 30	22
30 to 40	10
40 to 50	15
50 to 60	16
60 to 70	21
70 to 80	19

80 to 90	3
90 to 100	1
	147
No. of Males,	76
" Females,	71
" Insane,	9

DEATHS.

Names.	*Age.*	*Cause of Death.*
Joseph Brown,	90	Consumption.
William Bean,	71	Dropsy
Hannah Ricker,	93	Old Age.
Luther McDuffee,	74	Consumption
Lucy Richards,	75	Fever.
Charles Kelley,	82	Consumption
John Bickford,	75	"
Abigail Twombly,	80	Disease of Bowels.
—— Austin,	6 weeks	Cholera Infantum.
Sarah French,	42	Consumption
—— Conley,	5 weeks	Cholera Infantum.

The County Farm has been very well managed the past year, as the results clearly testify. All the apartments throughout the buildings are kept neat and clean, and the inmates are kept as tidy and clean as possible under the circumstances.

The physical condition of the inmates is no better than it was last year, but rather worse on an average Although most of the inmates of the Alms-House are unable to perform any productive labor, yet we do not anticipate any increase of expenditures for supporting the same number we have this year; but on the

contrary, we may reasonably expect that the average annual expenses will be less for each person supported, as the Farm is becoming more productive every year. With our superior facilities for manufacturing manure, we shall be able to increase the products of the Farm with the same amount of labor in the future.

We have constantly endeavored to pursue the policy of placing the children coming to the Alms-House, who have no homes or friends to provide and care for them, as soon as it is proper to do so in good respectable families. It is of course our duty to see that they are kindly and tenderly cared for, and have thus provided homes for thirteen the past year, where they will be properly instructed with the ordinary duties of life.

The School, consisting of from twenty to thirty children, has been taught by Miss Chesley and Miss Edgerly a large part of the year, in which the progress in learning has been very commendable.

Religious services are held at the Alms-House each week the most part of the year on Sabbath evenings. Clergymen of the surrounding towns have kindly offered their services.

We again express our renewed confidence in C. E. Caswell, Esq , Superintendent, and Mrs. Caswell, Matron, both of whom have been at the head of the Institution as Superintendent and Matron the past four years. The cares

and perplexities surrounding them are continually trying their utmost patience, which no person unacquainted with the duties devolving upon them could realize Mr. and Mrs. Caswell have discharged their respective duties and trusts with great fidelity and integrity during this long period in the public service, which entitle them to our highest commendation and encouragement, and we have secured their services for another year.

Agreeably to a vote of the Convention we have erected a building for a Hospital in which is furnished bath rooms for the use of the inmates, as well as separate and convenient rooms to accommodate the sick,—needs this class have so long required. Many other improvements have been made the past year. We have also purchased 2 1-2 acres of land that contains a bountiful supply of excellent muck for the use of the Farm.

We are happy at all times to receive visitors who desire to ascertain all the facts and particulars in regard to the comforts and conveniences enjoyed by the inmates of the Institution. It is the right of the tax-payers of the County to see for themselves the operation of an Institution which was purchased at their expense.

JOSIAH B. EDGERLY,
JESSE R. HORNE, } Com'rs.
URIAH WIGGIN,